

to said inner and outer walls for cutting a food item.

11. (twice amended) A food utensil comprising:

- [a] an elongated hollow body for encasing an elongated food product, said elongated hollow body having an inner wall forming an interior and an outer wall, an open first end and a closed second end, and, a plurality of grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end to a corresponding plurality of points approaching the second end;
- a plurality of blades extending across said interior; and
- a blade rack slidably engaged with said outer wall for attachment of said plurality of blades wherein each of said plurality of blades correspondingly extends through one of said plurality of grooves.

13. (amended) An appliance comprising:

- [a] an elongated hollow body for supporting an elongated food product, said elongated hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall forming an interior;
- a plurality of blades fixed within said interior and extending across said interior; and
- a receptacle for holding an item to be sliced, that upon appliance operation is slidably engaged along said outer wall thereby forcing said item against said blades for slicing thereof.

14. (amended) A method of slicing a food item comprising:

- providing a fixed plurality of blades within [a] an elongated hollow body and across a diameter thereof;
- inserting [a] an elongated food item to be sliced in a receptacle, said

elongated food item supported by said elongated hollow body; and
slidably engaging the receptacle along an outer circumference of the hollow
body to bias the item against and at least partially through the blades
thereby slicing the item.

15. (amended) A method of slicing a food item comprising:
placing [a] an elongated [cylindrical] food item within [a] an elongated
hollow body of an appliance along [the] a length of the hollow body,
said elongated food item supported by said elongated hollow body;
providing a plurality of blades within the hollow body and across a diameter
thereof; and
sliding the blades along the length of the hollow body thereby slicing at
least a portion of the cylindrical food item.

16. (amended) A method of slicing [a] an elongated food item
comprising:
providing a plurality of blades within [a] an elongated hollow body and
across a cross-section thereof; and
affecting a relative motion between the elongated food item and the
plurality of blades thereby slicing at least a portion of the food item
and yet supporting the elongated food item within the elongated
hollow body.

17. (amended) A food slicer comprising:
[a] an elongated hollow body for slicing an elongated food item, said
elongated hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall, said
walls defining an elongated interior that supports the elongated food
item;
a plurality of blades within said elongated hollow body and extending across
a cross-section thereof; and